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ABSTRACT

The Committee on Transfer of Credit from Technical Education Centers recommends that 4-year colleges and universities in South Carolina accept all associate degree credits from accredited technical education centers. It is further recommended that degree credit be given for those courses that are comparable to courses offered on the 4-year campus, and that elective credit be awarded where no equivalent courses can be found. (HS)

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Report of the Committee on Transfer of Credit
from Technical Education Centers

The Committee on Transfer of Credit from Technical Education Centers has spent considerable time and energy studying the various problems related to the transfer of Associate in Applied Science degree credits from regionally accredited technical education centers to four-year colleges and universities in South Carolina. The Committee has now unanimously arrived at a policy which it wishes to recommend to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. This policy is based on the premise that four-year institutions acknowledge the significance of accreditation of technical education centers by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and that they will maintain a positive attitude toward accepting credits from such institutions.

Specifically, we urge all institutions of higher education to accept associate degree credits from accredited technical education centers for appropriate courses when such courses are passed with grades acceptable for transfer credit. We further urge that four-year institutions take steps to increase articulation with technical education centers regarding the contents of courses to be offered for transfer. We emphasize that the question of "equivalency" should center around the value of the content of a course to a general area of knowledge rather than to the strict similarity of such course content to that of another course.

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HE 003 459

In order to reach the above recommendation, the Committee studied four diverse subject areas: accounting, chemistry, English, and mathematics.* Faculty members from Clemson University, Furman University, the University of South Carolina, and several technical education centers were invited to evaluate the curricula and determine potential transferability of basic courses. An example of how this transfer may be accomplished in the four areas studied is provided by Clemson University, which has indicated acceptance of certain courses as follows:

TEC Course(s)

Comparable Clemson Course(s)

Accounting 111, 121, 131
Chemistry 110, 120, 130
English 112
English 105, 106, 107

Accounting 201, 202
Chemistry 101
English 101
English 101, 102

(It is possible that a combination of speech courses offered by technical education centers may receive credit for a basic speech course at Clemson)

Basic Mathematics sequences

Appropriate Algebra and Trigonometry courses at pre-calculus level.

While there were differences of opinion among the universities concerning the comparability and transferability of specific courses, representatives of all three institutions found some courses which appeared acceptable for transfer credit. The Committee wishes to reiterate that the four subject matter areas which it studied were meant to be representative only; it is believed that comparable courses will be found in other areas. It is also suggested that elective credit may be assigned where no equivalent courses can be found for TEC courses which are determined to be of value at the college level. The

Committee acknowledges that it is always the right of baccalaureate institutions to determine the transferability of credits based on their own requirements, but feels that South Carolina colleges and universities should examine their current policies as they may be affected by these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

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